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## METIS ACTIVIST, AUTHOR TO SPEAK MONDAY AT CONCORDIA

Howard Adams, who grew up hating his own Métis origins but later became a crusader for Métis rights, will give a Canadian Studies public lecture at Concordia's Sir George campus on Monday, March 22.

His talk will be given at 10:55 a.m. in room H-420 of the Hall Building, de Maisonneuve at Bishop.

Adams' latest book, Prison of Grass: Canada from the Native Point of View, was published recently by New Press. It chronicles his life from childhood in St. Louis, Saskatchewan, a period characterized by racial abuse and poverty, to his own transformation as a graduate student at Berkeley, California.

One critic, writing in the Vancouver Sun, suggests the book "should have an impact in this country no less than Eldridge Cleaver's Soul on Ice".

Adams examines the impoverished condition of native peoples and suggests in his book that the roots of racism go back to European economic exploitation: the Whites needed land and cheap labour and they simply took them. Because Whites view racial equality as a threat to their own economic dominance, native people will remain a second-class people until they act collectively and force change.

Adams views government involvement in Inuit affairs as an attempt to divide native peoples. "The answers are not going to come from government," he says. "The government conquered us." He is skeptical of native peoples' optimism over land claims. While the claims are legitimate, he fears that other major issues will be sidestepped because native people will be pinning their hopes on issues that will be resolved only after years of court debate. The issue is a red herring designed to distract the people, he says.

The Métis activist was embroiled in a tenure debate -- that eventually reached premier Ross Thatcher's office -- at the University of Saskatchewan in the late sixties. Adams was a visiting lecturer here in 1970.

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More from Professor Richard Wilbur, 879-4473.

Joel McCormick  
University Editor